

In the Claims

Claims 2-6 are unchanged.

Please amend the following claims by deleting the language which is enclosed in brackets "[]" and inserting the language which is underlined "_____".

1. (Twice Amended) A weed extraction apparatus comprising:

a linearly elongated handle [of a linearly elongated cylindrical configuration,] having an anterior end opposite a posterior end;

a pair of movable claw appendages;

a linearly elongated lever pivotally mounted to said anterior end by a bolt, said bolt also serving as a fulcrum for said pair of movable claw appendages;

an operating rod of a linear, rod-like configuration which extends parallel along a linear length of the handle and connects to a movable linkage arm pivotally mounted near the posterior end of the handle;

a spring disposed on said bolt and adapted so as to connectively embrace said lever in such a manner whereby said lever is biased to a position extending away from said anterior end of said handle; and

[a movable linkage arm.]

a pulley coupled via said linkage arm to said handle proximately positioned below said lever and freely rotatable about said linkage arm.

7. (Once Amended) A weed extraction apparatus comprising:

a linearly elongated handle [of a linearly elongated cylindrical configuration,] having an anterior end opposite a posterior end, wherein said anterior end of said handle is encapsulated within a sleeve comprised of a thin layer of rubber peripherally adhered thereto, extending a linear distance therealong, so as to allow a user to obtain a non-slip, firm grasp of said handle;

a pair of movable claw appendages;

a linearly elongated lever pivotally mounted to said anterior end by a bolt, said bolt also serving as a fulcrum for said pair of movable claw appendages, wherein said lever includes a plurality of finger-gripping channels formed on an upper surface thereof so as to facilitate gripping of the lever;

an operating rod of a linear, rod-like configuration which extends parallel along a linear length of the handle and connects to a movable linkage arm pivotally mounted near the posterior end of the handle[;], said linkage arm has a pair of generally, linearly elongated rectangularly-shaped members pivotally connected at ends in an overlapping manner to said handle, wherein said operating rod serves to actuate opening and closing of said pair of movable claw appendages;

a spring disposed on said bolt and adapted so as to connectively embrace said lever in such a manner whereby said lever is biased to a position extending away from said anterior end of said handle;

[a movable linkage arm, wherein said linkage arm is comprised of a pair of generally,

linearly elongated rectangularly-shaped members pivotally connected at ends in an overlapping manner to the handle, wherein said operating rod serves to actuate opening and closing of the pair of movable claw appendages;]

a pulley coupled via said linkage arm to said handle proximately positioned below said lever and freely rotatable about said linkage arm; and

a cable operatively engaged with said pulley and connected at one end to a side of said lever opposite said finger-gripping channels, and connected at an opposite end to a cable connecting stem, which is in turn connected to an anterior end of said operating rod.